

Manual Quiz Is Dodged By General

By the Associated Press

Still another manual is plaguing Air Force chiefs. This one suggests the Soviets may have hoodwinked the United States into wasting money on useless planes.

Gen. Thomas S. Power, commander of the Strategic Air Command, was questioned by an appropriations subcommittee March 21 about the manual. The testimony, made public yesterday, shows he begged off a direct comment on the ground he hadn't read the whole book, which was intended for Air Force reservists.

Representative Laird, Republican of Wisconsin, quoted from the manual's discussion of "technological strategy":

"In the view of some persons in the intelligence services, we may already have been victimized by the Soviets. It is more than just possible that the Russians led us to believe that they were building a sizable striking force of long-range bombers whereas in reality they were devoting their major effort to the development of intercontinental missiles."

"If this has been Soviet strategy, then billions of dollars have been invested in aircraft that will never be used in actual combat (and) . . . we have spent vast sums of money . . . which might better have gone toward the development of ICBMs (intercontinental ballistic missiles) and the launching of a satellite before Sputnik I."

"It is real easy for everybody to look back and become an expert," Gen. Power remarked. "I would rather not comment on it unless I read the whole pamphlet to see in exactly what context it was made."

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